

AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE

Vertical Takeoff and Landing (VTOL) Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)

DESCRIPTION

The Navy and Marine Corps have initiated a program to develop and field a Vertical Takeoff and Landing (VTOL) Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV). The VTOL UAV is planned to replace the current UAV system, Pioneer, beginning in FY03. The VTOL UAV will have the capability to takeoff and land from any air capable ship (a ship possessing at least one helicopter landing spot) as well as operate from austere unprepared sites ashore. Additional capabilities include: range of 200 km, speed of 135 kts, and service ceiling minimum of 15,000 ft. The initial payload required is an electro-optic/infrared camera with a laser designator.

PROCUREMENT PROFILE:	FY00	FY01
<i>Quantity:</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>

OPERATIONAL IMPACT

The concept of OMFTS is intensive from both the manpower and technology perspective. This concept is based on leveraging technology to both reduce risk and manpower required. The use of unmanned systems, such as UAVs, is a key component of this concept. The Marine Corps' vision of the Tactical UAV is to operate it as an integral part of our MAGTF ACE. Initially integrated into our MEU (SOC) operations, this capability will become full time support of a MEF. The Marine Corps foresees a Tactical UAV with a VTOL capability that can operate from any air capable ship as well as extremely austere locations ashore. The Marine Corps requires a very robust system that is easily deployed and sustainable to provide the MAGTF and JFC commanders maximum capability and flexibility.

PROGRAM STATUS

VTOL ORD was approved by the JROC during 1999. OPNAV (code N-85), the resource sponsor, has full funding for a VTOL UAV capability for a new program start in FY00.

DEVELOPER/MANUFACTURER

TBD